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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention
of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities
Forty-fourth session
Agenda items 4 and 6

REVIEW OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELDS WITH WHICH THE SUB-COMMISSION HAS BEEN CONCERNED

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Written statement submitted by the International Federation of Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture, a non-governmental organization on the roster

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[4 July 1992]

1. The International Federation of Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture (IFACAT), to which belong 15 associations and 35,000 people in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas, wishes to draw the Sub-Commission's attention to the grave violations of human rights in Peru. In this country, where democracy was restored over 10 years ago, there has been no improvement in the human rights situation. On the contrary, and especially since the arbitrary measures instituted by President Fujimori on 5 April last, violence has grown without a halt. In the past 11 years there have been over 20,000 victims.

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2. According to a report by the Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos, 3,100 people were victims of political violence in 1991. The Shining Path was responsible for 1,500 cases and the armed forces for 1,300; 300 persons disappeared. In 1989, the Coordinadora reported 2,900 cases of assassination and 300 cases of disappearance and in 1990, 3,400 cases of assassination and 246 disappearances. Between 1 January and 20 April 1992, there were a total of 725 victims of political violence and 30 disappearances.

3. During the first six months of this year, the members of IFACAT took action over 11 cases of disappearance, 42 cases of detention incommunicado, 2 cases of torture, 5 cases of extrajudiciary execution, 37 cases of death in detention and 7 cases of death threats. IFACAT requests the Sub-Commission to adopt a resolution expressing its concern at the grave and systematic violations of human rights and recommending to the Commission on Human Rights the appointment of a special rapporteur for Peru.

4. IFACAT has also made representations on several occasions to the Commission on Human Rights concerning the problem of impunity for the perpetrators of acts of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, which are prohibited by article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and by all the international conventions and covenants. IFACAT urgently wishes to raise this question again with the Sub-Commission. It is now proven that failure by State authorities to make arrangements to ensure the prosecution and disciplining of perpetrators of such infringements of the dignity of the human person causes the worsening and multiplication of such offences. Because of their refusal to act, or their influencing of their national judiciaries so that they do not act, the governmental authorities of a great many countries, on all continents, are directly responsible for the multiplication of cases of torture. For that reason, IFACAT requests the members of the Sub-Commission to take all appropriate steps to ensure that the all too frequent practice of impunity is again denounced and that States commit themselves to making every effort to ensure its genuine elimination.